

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01
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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
NEA:SSOBER

-----060559Z 037599 /14-11

R 051730Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 102367

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SHAH TO PRESIDENT ABOUT AWACS

1. IN LETTER OF APRIL 28, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SENT TO
PRESIDENT AN APRIL 27 LETTER FROM SHAH, TEXT OF WHICH
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE MANY SUBJECTS IN MIND WHICH I WANTED TO TAKE UP
WITH YOU ON THE QUESTION OF THE DEFENSE OF MY COUNTRY
AND THE STABILITY OF OUR REGION INCLUDING OUR GEOGRAPHICAL
NEIGHBORHOOD.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING APPROVED THE SALE TO IRAN,
AMONG OTHER ITEMS, OF FIVE E-3 AIRCRAFT (AWACS).

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WHEN I FIRST RAISED THE PROBLEM OF AWACS WITH PRESIDENT
FORD AND LATER WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, I HAD ASKED
FOR SEVEN OF THESE AIRCRAFT. AT THE TIME, WE PLANNED TO
BUILD 44 GROUND RADAR STATIONS.

LATELY, WE HAVE STUDIED THE MATTER ON OUR OWN AND ALSO

JOINTLY WITH THE AMERICAN ADVISERS HERE AS TO WHAT WOULD

BE REQUIRED IF MY COUNTRY WAS TO ESTABLISH EARLY WARNING RADAR SYSTEMS. IN THIS REGARD, WE TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE VERY MOUNTAINOUS NATURE OF MY COUNTRY AND WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE FIGURE, 9. MY AIR FORCE HAVE REQUESTED 10 AWACS, BUT BY OPERATING 9 OF THESE AIRCRAFT, WE COULD DECREASE THE 44 GROUND RADAR STATIONS TO 20, OR LESS. THIS WOULD NATURALLY SAVE US A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VERY HIGHLY SKILLED PERSONNEL AND GREATLY DIMINISH THE INCONVENIENCE TO THE REMAINDER AS FAR AS FACILITIES FOR DWELLINGS, SCHOOLS, CAMPS, ETC. ARE CONCERNED. AT THE SAME TIME THIS WOULD PROVIDE US WITH THE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO HAVE A LOOKOUT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.

I THINK YOU WOULD CONCUR WITH ME, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND THE EVENTUALITIES IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR MY COUNTRY TO BE FULLY ALIVE AND ALERT TO EVENTS IN THOSE QUARTERS, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE RELATED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

WITH ALL DUE REGARD TO THE VERY SHORT PERIOD, VIZ. TWENTY DAYS, THAT IS AVAILABLE BEFORE YOU WILL HAVE TO NOTIFY THE CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS, I WOULD BE MOST PLEASED IF YOU WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO PRESENT THIS MATTER TO THE CONGRESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE PROVIDED IN THIS COMMUNICATION.

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THE VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR IRAN OF THE ABOVE SUBJECT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS THAT ANY DECISION IN THIS RESPECT WILL HAVE ON THE STRATEGIC GEO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

WITH BEST WISHES AND KINDEST REGARDS.

SINCERELY, MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI. END QUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: MASS, PPDC, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA), (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: TEHRAN
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